

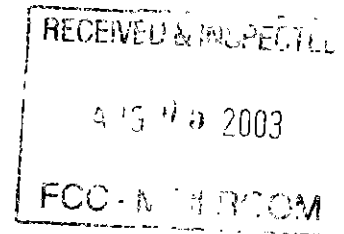


joliet region

**CHAMBER of COMMERCE** & industry

July 24, 2003

Ms. Marlene Dortch  
 Secretary  
 Federal Communications Commission  
 445 12th Street SW, Room CY-B402  
 Washington, DC 20554



RE Application of SBC, Pursuant to Section 271 of the Telecommunications Act of 1996 for Authorization to Provide In-Region InterLATA Services in Illinois, Indiana Ohio, and Wisconsin, WC Docket No. 03-167

Dear Ms. Dortch

It is clear to me from personal experience that the playing field for local telecommunications service is a level playing field. Just last evening I had solicitations from three vendors, other than SBC, offering me the great advantage of their local and long distance service. Across my desk yesterday came a written proposal from yet another vendor offering local access service along with their long distance service.

All that remains now is for the playing field for long distance service to become level in our region - and you have the opportunity to make that happen. You have the opportunity to bring full and open competition to Illinois and adjoining SBC states by removing the SBC prohibition of fully utilizing the largest and most complete network in the region. It is now simply a question of fairness.

The Board of Directors of the Joliet Region Chamber of Commerce and Industry, representing hundreds of businesses in a region with a population of some 560,000 people, voted months ago to support SBC's entry into the long distance market in order to provide full competition, lower long distance costs, and equal one-stop telecommunications shopping. This letter reiterates our position and encourages your favorable ruling to allow SBC full entry into the long distance market.

Sincerely,

Russ Slinkard  
 President & CEO